## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Substitute Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above-entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. No fee or certification is required.

## "Express Mail" mailing label number: ET162571270US Date of Mailing: April 27, 2001 Thereby certify that the application/correspondence attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box: Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. Typed name of person mailing paper or fee Signature of person mailing paper or fee

No fees are believed to be necessary. Please charge any fees that may be necessary for prosecution of the present application to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

Respectfully submitted,

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				U.	S. PATE	NT D	OCUMENTS					
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.